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19 March 1946

CENTRAL PLANNING STAFF

PLANNING DIRECTIVE NO. 15

SUBJECT: Application of Sampling Technique to Intelligence

ONI DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON F

1. The Problem:

a. At the direction of the Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, Lt. Comdr. Ransom L. Eng, USNR, prepared a secret memorandum dated 25 January 1946, subject: "The Sampling Technique as Applied to Naval Intelligence." It is in pamphlet form, typed, acco-bound, in card-board cover. Copies No. 1 and 7 have been furnished the Central Planning Staff (via Capt. Cullen to [REDACTED]). Attached to Copy No. 1 is an excellent memorandum of comment and additional data, dated 12 March 1946, from Mr. Tibby to Capt. Cullen.

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b. Lt. Comdr. Eng's memorandum presents forceful argument in favor of using sampling techniques for solving a wide variety of intelligence problems. While written for Naval Intelligence, his discussion is in fact applicable to the entire purview of the National Intelligence Authority. The case is sufficiently well presented to justify a thorough survey by the Central Intelligence Group to determine the need for practical tests and development of procedures under supervision of selected leading experts in the United States. Although this has not been referred to the Planning Staff for action, nevertheless a draft of appropriate C.I.G. action should be initiated at an early date.

c. The memorandum also contains important incidental implications as to the usefulness of IBM machinery in the control of intelligence information. This feature should be studied as a major subsidiary problem.

d. Copy No. 1, with attachment, is enclosed under the original of this Directive for file in the Support Branch. Copy No. 7 is enclosed for file under the Information Branch copy of this directive.

2. Planning Requirement:

a. Effective upon activation of the Support Branch, a committee will be formed to consist of:

- (1) The Chief, Support Branch, Chairman.
- (2) One member of the Information Branch, to be designated by its Chief upon call of the Chairman.

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- (3) One member of the Intelligence Branch, to be designated by its Chief upon call of the Chairman.
 - (4) Additional members from Support Branch, as directed by its Chief, to provide recorder and secretarial service.
- b. (1) The Committee will study the problem as outlined in 1 b and 1 g, above, considering action already taken by the Navy and other appropriate agencies.
- (2) The Committee will prepare a draft of recommended C.I.G. action, submitting two copies to this office and an additional copy to the Policy and Review Branch. The Committee is encouraged to consult informally with the Policy and Review Branch and with this office during the study.
3. Deadline:
- a. Owing to the shortage of personnel in the Central Planning Staff, no deadline is assigned at this time. An informal progress check will be made on 4 April.
- b. Starting 24 hours after the draft is submitted, the Committee and the Policy and Review Branch will be prepared to review the draft with this office.

FOR THE CHIEF, CENTRAL PLANNING STAFF:

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Acting Deputy Chief, Central Planning Staff

Distribution:

Original to Support Branch (with Copy No. 1 of enclosure)
(and memo of comment from Mr. Tibby to
Information Branch (with Copy No. 7 of enclosure)
Intelligence Branch✓
Policy and Review
File - Planning Directives
File - Application of Sampling Technique to Intelligence
Suspense File - 4 April

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Enclosure:

Copies No. 1 and 7 of Lt. Comdr. Eng's memorandum, as noted in 1a above
Memorandum of Comment from Mr. Tibby to

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